

Established February, 1845.

PRICE, \$2.50 PER MONTH

## Notice of Firm

**NOTICE.**

**M**Y Brother, Mr EDMOND HUMPHREYS,  
my Son, Mr HENRY HUMPHREYS,  
Mr HART BUCK, and my Nephew, Mr  
JOHN ANDREWS JEFF, have this day been  
ADMITTED into PARTNERSHIP in my  
Firm of JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON.

**JNO. D. HUMPHREYS.**

Hongkong, December 2, 1896. 2347

**Auctions.**

**PUBLIC AUCTION.**

**THE** Undersigned has received instructions from the OFFICIAL ADMINISTRATOR to Sell by Public Auction, on—

**WEDNESDAY,**

the 11th December, 1896, at 2.30 p.m., at the Residence of the late Mr. LOUIS SANDAL, No. 1, West Terrace,—

THE WHOLE OF THE  
**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c.,**  
comprising—

TAPESTRY-COVERED DRAWING-ROOM SUITE.  
(CHIMNEY GLASSES, ENGRAVINGS AND OIL PAINTING.)  
CANTON BLACKWOOD TABLES.  
ORNAMENTS, IVORY CARVINGS AND NOTICABLE—  
CARPETS and HEARTH RUGS.  
EXTRIOR DINING TABLE, SIDEBOARD, SEATBOARDS, CARD TABLE, and VICTORIA CHAIRS.  
CHECKER, GLASS and PLATED WARE.  
BRASS MOUNTED DOUBLE and SINGLE LION BEDSTEPS, DOUBLE WALDORF with PLATE GLASS TOP, CASE of DRAWING, DRESSING TABLE and MARBLE-TOP WASH STAND.  
WRITING TABLE and BOOK CASKS.  
SUNDAY BOOKS.  
ONE COTTAGE PIANO, by J. BRADWOOD and SONS.  
&c., &c., &c.

Catalogues will be issued, and the whole to be on view on Tuesday, the 10th Inst.

**TERMS OF SALE.—As customary.**

**J. M. ARMSTRONG,**  
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, December 5, 1896. 7073

**Intimations.**

**THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.**

**THE First Yearly MEETING of the SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the OFFICES of the Company, 1, Duddell Street, on SATURDAY, the 14th December, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the General Manager and Statement of Account to the 30th June, 1895.**

**The Transfer BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 1st to 14th December, 90th days inclusive.**

**W. HUTTON POIRIE,**  
*Secretary.*

**Hongkong, November 30, 1895. 2223**

**THE PUNJON MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.**

**NOTICE**

**I**N accordance with a Special Resolution passed by the Directors of the above Company on the 29th day of November, 1895, Notice is hereby given, unless the **FINAL CALL** or **TWENTY PER CENT** on the Shares be **PAID** to the Undersigned at the Company's Office, Consulate House, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, on or before the last day of **JANUARY, 1896**, together with **INTEREST** at the Rate of **2 PER CENT** per Annum from the 8th September, 1895, the **SHARES** in respect of which the Call was made will be **LIABLE TO FORFEITURE**.

By Order of the Board of Directors,  
**JAMES S. DUNCAN,**  
Secretary.

Hongkong, November 29th 1895.

**NOTICES TO CONSIGNEES.**

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**FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.**

**THE Steamship Lightning having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed, that their Goods will be delivered from alongside. Cargo impeding the discharge or remaining on board after the 10th Instant, will be landed at Consignees risk and expense into the Godowns of the **NATURAL WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO., LTD.,** Wharves, Consignees of Cargo from SINGAPORE and Penang are requested to take immediate action of their Goods free alongside, with any Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees risk and expense.**

No Fire Insurance will be effected.  
Bills of Lading will be countersigned by  
**DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.,**  
*Agents.*  
Hongkong, December 7, 1895. 1254

**AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY.  
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.  
FROM SHANGHAI AND HONG**

THE S.S. Maria Valera, having arrived, Consignees at Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Ltd., whence delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Claims must be sent in to the Underwriters before Noon on the 14th Instant, on pain of rejection as unavailing.

No Fire Insurance has been effected, and any Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 14th Instant will be subject to rent.

Hills of Lading will be vouchered by the  
SAMPSON & CO.  
Agents.

Hongkong, December 7, 1898.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL

The *Albion Mail*

*Pallodon*, *Hall*, Nov. 1; *Ber*  
*Oxus*, *Stentor*, *St. Regulus*, 1; *A*  
*dearg*, *St. Andrews*, 12; *Glencask*,

the last meeting of the Legislative Council, the meeting at which the Governor and his lieutenant, the Financial Secretary inveighed against the Government, the Hon. Member who is to represent the Government of Commerce asked a question regarding the sale of certain houses owned by Mr. Moses. The houses were situated in the Cantonment at Kowloon.

...the Government for the...  
...of the Po Leung Kuk, a...  
...committee of that institution s...  
...and gave approval. Afte...  
...houses were built, a difference of op...  
...between the Committee and...  
...Government, with the result tha...  
...houses were never occupied by th...  
...Leung Kuk. That was in 1892/23...  
...22nd September, 1896, the h...  
...were sold to a Mr Moses, who...  
...given to understand, cons...  
...th the firm of Messrs David Sa...

ns and Co. The houses were b  
cost of \$8000 on a piece of  
duced at \$13,000. They were  
ilt houses, three stories high  
y covered a superficial area of  
square feet. The Crown Ren  
\$100 per annum. In 1892, the  
r of Public Works valued the  
1,100; but it is only fair to  
at when offered for sale by public  
in 1892—a particularly bas  
Hongkong—the highest offer

than the price now paid for the houses. The houses on the opposite side of the same street let at an average of £36.50 per month, so it is not difficult to estimate to take the houses under consideration as of equal value, though it is probable they may realise more, taking into account the present rapid rise in the value of the houses in the Colony. The gross income from the five houses would therefore be £1,825 per annum, from which £1,218.50 is to be deducted—Crown Rent, £1,000; and the balance of £606.50 is to be divided among the five houses, giving £121.30 per house.

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Insurance, \$40; Repairs, \$50; General taxes, \$234, or, in all, having a net annual rental of \$1,000 capitalized at 6 per cent, on sixteenth years' purchase, the whole might be fairly valued at \$29,420 pesos, according to the statement of the Colonial Secretary, bought the property for \$3800—a very profitable speculation for him, for he can count on getting 20 per cent. return on his initial outlay. Now, we have no

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There are facts which certainly ar  
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character. But generosity does not rule out the right to be heard. It is a rule that intrudes itself in commercial transactions, and when it is equal to the felicitous administration by those who hold the finances of the Colony it is likely to be stigmatised as avarice in their name. Here we have a land valued by the Government at an office at \$21,000, and as a result of the experts at nearer \$20,500, and yet for a paltry sum of \$100,000 Mr. Moses is a lucky man. He

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Harvey, 'The Debating Society', and Ruby played, particularly the last of which were extremely clever and amusing better than anything we have seen for some time. All his selections, his greatest study and were handled by him with a mastery and confidence that was only equalled by one who had thoroughly mastered the subject of elocution. He certainly deserves a larger house, the smallness of which was only attributable to so many

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H.M.S. *Porpoise* arrived at Manila, from Lebanon, on the 8th inst.

A paper mill is about to be started at Manila.

In the Police Court to-day, the Chinaman charged with forging bank notes was committed for trial at the next Sessions on the second count. He already stood committed on the first count.

Visitors to the docks.—At Kowloon, H. I. G. M. S. *Reina Cristina*, Kaiser, *Eschew*, *Dover*, *Amoy*, *Campbell*, *Belgia*, *Admiral* (None).

At a regular meeting of the United Service Lodge, No. 1341, held on Saturday evening, Bro. W. C. H. Hastings was elected W.M., Bro. H. J. Watson, Treasurer, and Bro. J. Maxwell, Tyler.

Some time ago, when the whole of the local journals were unanimously endorsing certain Government proposals, the *N. O. Daily News* was made the vehicle of an official defence. It was generally believed at the time that it was an official communiqué, but, of course, it was impossible to say whose hand penned the article. Perhaps it was out of gratitude for his defence on that occasion that His Excellency was prompted to send a copy of his address opening the legislative session to our Shanghai morning contemporary, which acknowledges the courtesy of the Governor and publishes a summary of the address, asked out with quotations from our Hongkong morning contemporary, and a few original comments. Are we to take this as a forerunner of a defence of His Excellency's attack upon Mr. Whitehead?

A CHINESE correspondent writes to the *N. O. Daily News*—

We are often thinking of the American Commission on its two months' journey to Chingtu, and hope it is steadily preserving a dignified bearing, and looking sublimely unimpressed by all it sees. No ability seems called for on its part, and we trust no independent American is allowing any Chinaman to feel the texture of his coat sleeve, and appraise his boots, yet sometimes fear that gentility so general in all parties may lead to setting Chinese boys to play leap-frog, or other such levity. Yet having travelled for two months across China, what are they going to do, when they arrive in Chingtu? We only know we shall be very glad to see them, when they come on here, as we suppose they will on their return journey.

Our Singapore contemporaries publish a letter addressed by the Chairman of the London Branch of the Straits Settlements Association to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the Military Contribution. The Association, while gratefully acknowledging the settlement of Lord Ripon in fixing the contribution of the Colony at a definite percentage of the Revenue, subject to certain specified deductions, express their regret that the percentage of 17½ did not include the capital expenditure for Lands and Buildings, and charges for lodging in lieu of barracks. The Association believes that the Colony would have cheerfully accepted a settlement on the basis that the 17½ per cent. was a fixed charge in full of all demands, and fears that future difficulties may arise, if the charge under these headings is not strictly limited in amount. The Association is convinced that if any material addition to the annual charge of 17½ per cent. is made, it would be considered to take from the Colony the benefits of the settlement now arrived at. The Association, however, does not believe that Her Majesty's Government intends to re-impose in great part the annual charge, against which the Colony has so long protested, by dividing it into two items—a fixed and so uncertain charge—the latter being capable of an indefinite increase, but that the latter will be the lines of the modified proposals already before the Legislative Council, relating exclusively to the housing of the Troops and other buildings requisite in connection therewith. The Association will not be too sure of anything, if it takes our advice, but will continue to watch the further development of this question with the closest vigilance. The Straits Settlements, like Hongkong, are doubtless pleased at the prospect of having the Military Contribution fixed on a silver basis, but it is going to be additional charges for military purposes that do not appear that the Far Eastern Colonies are going to profit by the new arrangement, at least, to any great extent. When the question was discussed in Singapore, the Legislative Council very properly agreed to call for an explicit declaration of certain phrases in Lord Ripon's despatch in order that the Colony might ascertain what additional sum it would have to pay over and above the 17½ percentage on the revenues. In Hongkong, the Officials have declared their intention of opposing the fixing of the contribution at 17½ per cent. if no account is to be taken of what may be actually added as Municipal revenue but even if deducted on this point, they ought to have a more definite idea of what additional expenditure the Colony may be required to bear.

At the Magistrate's to-day, before Mr. Scriven Smith, a Chinese servant in the employ of Mr. D. D. Humphreys was convicted of making away with a registered letter handed him by a Post Office messenger for delivery to Mrs. Humphreys. The prisoner was sent to goal for three months. It is believed that the letter contained a wedding present, as there is to be a marriage shortly at Mr. Humphreys' house, but that it is only a conjecture, as all that is known is that the boy told the postman that the mistress was asleep, and as the receipt was presented with registered letters was explained away; then the boy presented Mrs. Humphreys with the receipt without the letter, which has never been seen since, and has the master yet turned up.

A skilful accident happened on the 28th November at Johnston to Isaac Rogers, of the *London*. He was thrown on the bank of his head when out riding; fortunately a friend was with him and he was promptly taken to the hospital.

Prisoners taken—Strictly on by duly certified—light also.—W. Robinson and Co.

The cholera epidemic in Shanghai has died out.

The German cruiser *Arcona* has returned to Amoy from Swatow.

There were 172 Europeans and 1839 Chinese visitors to the City Hall Museum during the week ending Dec. 8.

The *Lillian J. Robbins* has been dismantled off Cape St. James and towed in to Saigon. Her repairs will take some months to effect.

The sailing ship *Wandering Jew*, recently on fire in Hongkong harbour, was sold by auction to-day, we hear, to Messrs Jardine, Matheson & Co. for \$7,800.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Her Majesty has not been advised to exercise her power of disallowance with respect to the Ordinance for regulating the licensing of private vehicles.

ADMIRAL Haller was to leave Singapore on the 30th November in the despatch boat *Alceste* for Swatow, and will probably spend some time in North Borneo. The *Recluse* is expected in a few days from Singapore via Manila.

Dr. Noble, of the American Board Mission, is reported to be very seriously ill at Paoingfu. The death is announced from California of Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Smith. She was born in Tientsin on 15th April, 1877.

With regard to the saluting yesterday, a correspondent writes—"I would suggest that the Captains of the various foreign men-of-war should be reminded of the rule that salutes are not fired here on Sunday during morning service. Perhaps the local sailing might be able to put this matter right with the Naval Authorities."

The following returns of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 20th November, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China	1,757,082	1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	4,634,370	2,600,000
National Bank of China, Ltd.	406,587	212,000
Total.	\$6,848,039	\$3,812,000

We hear now (says the *Singapore Free Press*) that the author of the series of letters on the Far East to the *Times*, is Mr. Chiroli, who has represented that journal at Berlin. Mr. A. Michie has also written letters to the *Times*, but he is not the author of this particular series. We notice that the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, which is perhaps better able to identify Mr. Michie's writings than any other journal in the Far East, also states that Mr. Michie is not the author of the articles.

The new Willard Opera Company had a curious experience at Bangon a week or so ago. They intended showing at Manilain, but unfortunately Mr. Clifford Willard, one of his principal actresses and his pianist were left behind at Bangon, and had to await the return of the remainder of the Company to give two more performances in Bangon before going on to Calcutta. Clifford is a wide awake member of the profession, but he must have been caught napping on this occasion.

H.M.S. *Tured* (Lieut. Ward, commander) which was commissioned for service at Port-swamp, several months ago, returned from Foochow on Sunday morning. The Spanish cruiser *Reina Cristina*, which, appears to spend most of her time in dock at Kowloon, arrived on Sunday, and at once set about saluting the port and the various foreign warships in the Harbour. Saluting was renewed during service in the churches. There was a time when Sunday saluting was prohibited in Hongkong. Would it not be better if the naval authorities prevented foreign warships from disturbing the public peace on Sundays, at this rule during divine service? This rule is strictly observed in the Mediterranean ports. Why not in Hongkong?

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ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The Third Club race was sailed on Sunday last, the 8th December. The wind was fairly strong at the start, but fell light all through the race, the end being little more than a drift with the tide. The courses were:—From the Police Pier, Kowloon, round Comopolitan Dock Buoy (port), North Farway Buoy (starboard), Mark Boat off Chung Hoo (starboard), Stonecutters (starboard); 14 miles.

The following boats started in the First class:—  
*Payne*.....Mr. Morton Jones.  
*Princess*.....Royal Engineers.  
*Stella*.....Mr. C. Murray Adamson.  
*Erica*.....Mr. J. Hastings.  
*Metor*.....Mr. T. W. Lamont.  
*Princess*.....Mr. J. McKie.  
*And in the Second Class:—*  
*She*.....Mr. C. H. Gale.  
*Erica*.....Hon. Leo Dillon, R.B.  
*And in the Third Class:—*  
*Arrow*.....Lieut. Carey, R.A.  
*Sparkhill*.....Lieut. Stavely, R.B.

The starting line was crossed at 11.15. *Payne* and *Erica* leading with *Princess*, *Stella*, and *Princess* close up. The start was one of the prettiest sights we have seen, all the boats crossing within a few yards of each other. In the reach down to the Comopolitan Dock Buoy, *Princess* and *Ladybird* picked up a little on the leaders, and this mark was rounded by *Payne*, *Erica*, *Princess*, and *Ladybird* within 40 seconds. The following were the times of the boats:—

<i>Payne</i> .....	11.36.12
<i>Erica</i> .....	11.36.25
<i>Princess</i> .....	11.36.35
<i>Ladybird</i> .....	11.36.50
<i>Metor</i> .....	11.37.30
<i>Stella</i> .....	11.38.30
<i>Dart</i> .....	11.38.30
<i>She</i> .....	11.39.31
<i>Petrol</i> .....	11.38.43
<i>Erica</i> .....	11.41.25

The *Payne*, unfortunately, scraped her main boom with the buoy and hauled down her flag, but sailed round the course. A broad reach, with a short run at the end, brought the boats to the north-farway buoy, *Dart* and *Petrol* falling to the rear on the way, and the mark was passed as follows:—

<i>Erica</i> .....	11.57.30
<i>Princess</i> .....	11.57.55
<i>Ladybird</i> .....	11.58.22
<i>Stella</i> .....	12. 0. 0
<i>Metor</i> .....	12. 0. 20
<i>Dart</i> .....	12. 2. 40
<i>Petrol</i> .....	12. 2. 60
<i>She</i> .....	12. 3. 54
<i>Erica</i> .....	12. 10. 45

In the run down to Chung Hoo mark, the wind, which had been east so far, made a sudden change to north, and *Princess* went by *Erica* into first place, and this mark was rounded in the following order:—*Princess*, *Erica*, *Ladybird*, *Metor*, *Stella*, *Petrol*, *She*, *Dart*, *Erica*. In the best up to the east end of Stonecutters Island, the breeze fell away almost entirely. *Ladybird* and *Metor* both passed *Erica*, and these four went away from the rest of the fleet. When near the Powder Magazine at Stonecutters, *Erica* drifted past *Metor* into third place, and on the reach along Kowloon shore, *Ladybird*, which had gone wind hunting to near the Docks was becalmed for some time, and *Erica*, carrying way from one cat-paw to another was able to get in front of her. *Princess* had never lost the wind entirely and finished an easy winner. *Erica* being second and *Ladybird* third.

This line was crossed at the finish by the boats as follows:—  
*Princess*.....2.26.20  
*Erica*.....2.24.00  
*Ladybird*.....2.23.38  
*Metor*.....2.24.40  
*Stella*.....2.25.08  
*She*.....3. 9.54  
The marks gained by the boats are as follow:—

CRAMPERSHIP	Second Class.
<i>Erica</i> .....	18
<i>Princess</i> .....	15
<i>Dart</i> .....	10
<i>Payne</i> .....	1 Arrow.....20
<i>Ladybird</i> .....	1

The Regatta races will start from near the Flagstaff at Kowloon at 1.15 on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12th and 13th. Any partially-dressed or decked boats may start. For particulars see programmes of Regatta, which can be obtained at the Victoria Recreation Club.

Writing on the 17th November from Hongkong, the correspondent of the *N. O. Daily News* says—"The indoor Customs house seems to have increased guards of late, signs of fear in the place show any local signs of fear. It is now said that poor Tsoi Li, to whose exertions on our behalf we probably all owe our safety, has quite given way under the long strain and worry, his memory serves him no longer, and all possible official affairs have been carried on for him. Now, Mr. Chang, known for his anti-foreign propensities, who was Tsoi Li's friend when the first opened, is said to have been the good Tsoi Li given two months' rest, but not allowed to leave the place. They are not satisfied with him as Fooking, thinking that he here ought to have settled about the Szechuan riots, but so one was appointed to treat with him. So he could not."

Tax following communicated paragraph appears in the *Foochow Echo*:—"Referring to the illegal tax of two cents on a case of 12th November, we are glad to say that the blackmarket office was not given to say that, through the strong remonstrance of the Consul whose country produces the oil now bought and sold in Foochow, and we venture to say that the Chinese authorities cannot under any plea put forth proclaimations any more among such oil under the pretext that it is dangerous. The object of their saying that kerosene oil is dangerous is to try to make a revenue out of this illegal tax, and it remains to be seen if they will ever come to the same thing, that is, to want the people against the use of such oil."

W. Robinson and Co. are Special Agents for all the leading English and Continental flagships in the harbour.

THE OVERDUE STRATHNEVIS.

SAFETY OF THE STEAMER.

We have received the following letter from Messrs Dodwell, Carill & Co., general agents for the Northern Pacific Steamship Co.:—

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."  
 Hongkong, Dec. 9th, 1895.  
 Sir,—We are glad to say that we have a telegram this morning from our Tacoma firm stating that news has been received by a sailing vessel which has arrived at Victoria, B.C., that the *Strathnevis*, on the 19th November, with her main shaft broken, and that she was making the best of her way back to Victoria under sail. Our telegram adds that the *Strathnevis* was all well, and that there need not be any anxiety about her. Letter from the Captain of the *Strathnevis* were due at Tacoma to-day (9th), and if there was anything of importance in these letters our Tacoma firm would again telegraph to us.

We would further mention that the main shaft was broken in Latitude 49.14 North and Longitude 164.27 West, and that the sailing vessel spoke the *Strathnevis* in Latitude 48.40 North and Longitude 145.00 West.—We are, dear Sir, yours faithfully,  
 DODWELL, CARILL & Co.  
 General Agents.

We understand that other information has been received to the effect that it was the tail shaft and propeller that had broken and dropped off.

NEW RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE GRAND TRUNK LINE ORDERED.

The Chinese Mail (*Wah Ts Yat Po*) has received the following telegram from its Peking correspondent:—The ex-Provincial Judge, H. E. Wu Lu Foa, has been recommended by the Ministry of War, and accepted by the Throne, to be Superintendent in-charge of constructing the portion of a railway running from Tientsin to Lukow Bridge, length 216 li, estimated cost at 2,400,000 Taels. An Imperial Edict ordering the commencement of the work was issued on the 6th instant. The Edict also commands that the main trunk from Lukow Bridge to Hankow is to be given to any wealthy merchant in the country who can raise a subscribed capital of over ten millions of taels. The work will be free of official interference, and rewards will be recommended and sanctioned if the line is successfully constructed.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLEMENT TO THE "CHINA MAIL."]

LONDON, December 8th, 1895.

SAID Pasha's action in taking refuge in the British Embassy has created a profound sensation at Constantinople. The Sultan sent his Ministers to induce him to quit, but Said Pasha refused to do so.

PEOPLE in Shanghai must have noticed of late the strange preference of the Chinese and Shanghai Bank notes for Hongkong and Mexican dollars, which they prefer to have recently discovered are not nearly so desirable a medium of payment as *Huifong* paper. We believe that the reason for this is to be found in a view to future profitable operations, and it is said that the companies and Chinese owners have come to a distinct understanding on this head amongst themselves. To such an extent has this plan of campaign been carried that already a scarcity of paper money is being felt, and a demand for any conceivable number of notes even at the most often means a delay.—*China Gazette*.

The *Sokol*, the fastest "destroyer," has made a very excellent time from the *Meuse* to St. Petersburg. She left Meuse Yarrow's establishment on Thursday, the 24th Oct., and arrived off the entrance of the German Canal on the following day, after a very rough passage across the German Ocean. She passed through the canal on Saturday, and reached Cronstadt on the afternoon of Monday, the 28th. The Russian Government have decided to build a large number of similar vessels in Russia, to be distributed in the Baltic, Black Sea and at Vladivostok. We are not yet informed as to the *Singapore Free Press* that the British Government have agreed for any distribution of similar vessels in the Far East. There are six first-class and three second-class torpedo boats in reserve at Hongkong, and no torpedo destroyers. At Singapore, which is the greatest submarine cable focus of the Empire abroad, there is not even one torpedo boat, and it is very strongly recommended that a provision for the station.

From the Minutes of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, we learn that the question of the telephone from Shanghai to Hongkong has had to be referred to the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce has decided to build a large number of similar vessels in Russia, to be distributed in the Baltic, Black Sea and at Vladivostok. We are not yet informed as to the *Singapore Free Press* that the British Government have agreed for any distribution of similar vessels in the Far East. There are six first-class and three second-class torpedo boats in reserve at Hongkong, and no torpedo destroyers. At Singapore, which is the greatest submarine cable focus of the Empire abroad, there is not even one torpedo boat, and it is very strongly recommended that a provision for the station.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

A DEAL IN PROPERTY.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

Sir,—In your leader on Saturday dealing with Mr. Whitehead's questions in the Legislative Council, I see no reference to the particular question which (judging from the answer) roused the ire of the Government, namely the question of the disposal of buildings on Island Lots 1123 to 1133.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead asked—With reference to the Colonial Secretary's No. 1187 of 27th June, 1892, to the Registrar-General, forwarding a price of correspondence re House for Girls, the following paragraphs appear in the letter:—

"Five Chinese houses were accordingly erected on the site of the old Chinese Church in accordance with plans which the Po Leung Kuk Committee had seen, and which, it was understood, they approved."

"The cost of building these houses was \$8,000; the land on which they stand was valued at about \$12,000."

"The Government seems to have been somewhat misunderstanding with regard to the rents to be derived from the lower floors, the Po Leung Kuk Committee thinking that they were to go towards the maintenance of the Home, while the Government apparently thought they were to be paid into the Treasury."

"When the buildings had been completed the Po Leung Kuk objected to move into them because they considered them unsuitable, etc."

and in the report to the Colonial Secretary dated 1st February, 1892, on a petition from the Po Leung Kuk, the Registrar-General says:—

"I understand that it is the intention of the Government to sell the five houses, the top floor of which were intended for a Home. Their value, together with that of the ground on which they stand, has been estimated by the Surveyor-General at \$21,000."

Will the Government inform the Council whether these houses, erected at the public expense, were built upon island lot No. 1123; if so, have they been sold by private contract, the name of the purchaser being given? In connection with the sale, if there has been one, will the Government lay upon the table a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Government, and the Colonial Office on the subject?

The Colonial Secretary replied:—(1) The houses were built on island lot No. 1123 to 1133. (2) Yes; to Mr. Mosses for \$8,000 on a 999 years' lease, the Crown rent payable being \$100 a year. (3) The Governor is unable to see what useful public purpose would be served by laying the correspondence as asked for on the table.

Evidently, therefore, this was a specimen of what H. E. the Governor and the Colonial Secretary consider "useless" and "redundant" questions. It is a specimen of the kind of question which is put forward by the Po Leung Kuk, and which is answered by the Government in a way which is not only unhelpful, but which is also untruthful.

This sale of property looks at first sight like a job. The laws of the Colony provide that all sales of Crown land or buildings must be by public auction or public tender, in order to prevent bribery or influence, and in the present case, the sale was private, and this is a circumstance which deprives the Government of any right to refuse to continue the investigation or to suppress information. It is at once established the necessity of full public publicity.

The hole-and-corner mode of arranging this matter has led to all sorts of suspicious transactions must lead to several very discreditable imputations, which I will not detail, as I do not know of any evidence to support them, beyond the general maxim that concealment is in itself evidence of something to be kept dark. According to the figures given, the houses are to be sold for a total of \$21,000, while the land on which they stand, estimated to be worth \$12,000, brings \$100 a year, or less than one per cent. This is fairly good for the Government. It is not surprising that the Governor is unable to see what useful public purpose would be served by laying the correspondence upon the table. There are lots of other things which the Governor is unable to see enough to fill a very large book. He is unable to see when he is in the wrong, for one thing; and he is unable to see anything in any other light but as his ministers put it to him. He was unable to see that, having given his word to Mr. Whitehead about the withdrawal of that question, his method of keeping the promise was more discreditable than breaking it would have been.

But what the Governor can do is to see that he cannot in any way be taken in. What I wish to lead up to is that, whether the sale of the property in question was right or wrong, and how all wrong and dishonest, there is a moral which the Government must not ignore. The officials nor the Press seem to have noted. A great deal of was made over the Po Leung Kuk, two years ago; Mr. Whitehead attacked it and the Government defended it, and finally public opinion was won over for it and the buildings were put up for it, on plans which the Po Leung Kuk Committee had seen, and which it was understood, they approved; then when the houses were finished, the ground floors were let to shops and the upper floors were offered to the Po Leung Kuk, the Po Leung Kuk wanted to know the rental of the shops, and being refused, they declined to take them, and finally they decided to build a new building, specially built for them! If they had given the shops to them, they would have wanted the whole street, and falling that they throw the Government's present back in its face (metaphorically) and leave the Government with a row of houses on its hands (also metaphorically). Certainly, this aspect of the transaction should have more light thrown on it, and as a member of the community I beg to express the hope that further "aimless and bewildering" or "useless and redundant" questions will be asked about it. If the Governor thinks the community would be benefited by the sale of the property, let him do it. If he is not satisfied, let him do it. That is, speaking for myself, I would prefer not to believe as he does the right to express the views of the community. I would like to ask—"Will the Government lay upon the table a statement showing what was the Po Leung Kuk done? Would it be satisfied with the Kaiti? Because I would not like to have the whole street taken over by any hands and privately made over to anybody at one-tenth of its value.—Yours, R.

Certain H. L. Talbot, who is now in Singapore on his way to Peking to resume command of the *Force*, states, has decided to serve the Government with the Army and to take up permanent service in the *Force*. He is entitled to a gratuity of \$1,200 on retirement, but this amount, in the case of Col. Walker, C.B., has been held back until such time as he leaves the military service for good.—*Singapore Free Press*.

THE INTERPORT RIFLE MATCH.

Shanghai, Dec. 3.

The Interport Rifle Match, which excited so much interest in the Chinese press, is over for this year, and Shanghai has to be content with an honourable second place in the issue of the contest. Singapore winning with 934 points out of a possible 1050, Shanghai coming next with 903, and Hongkong, for once in a while, being out of the contest, the Singapore score, which was published in detail last night, shows some remarkably "tall" shooting. Lieutenant St. Clair with his 99 out of a possible 105 points, and Sergeant Captain Magillan, S.V.A., with 96, being quite up to Blaisey form. In practice the Shanghai team, before they had on the day of the match, scoring a total of 923 points, but between the contest and the fatal day, on which the contest was decided some changes were made in the composition of the team, which may, or may not, have led to the reduction in the figures. Private van der Meer, a well-known moment substituted for Driver Bourke, and Sergeant Macdonald giving place to one of the other members who competed. Both in practice and during the match a good deal of trouble was experienced at all three ports, owing to defective ammunition, resulting in what are known as shooting men as "bang fires," which are not always so very accurate to the marksmen, but the means frequently of seriously reducing the score. Writing on the subject in the *China Mail*, Major Wrottesley says:—

"These bang-fires, which occasionally occur with the Mark II pattern of the Lee-Enfield rifle, and are the means of spoiling good scores, usually cause a drop of two feet in the bullet at 600 yards."

It may be remarked that the Mark II pattern of the Lee-Enfield rifle, the weapon in Shanghai, is just as liable to bang-fires as the Mark I, but the means of correcting the defective ammunition which is used in both rifles. In the match just concluded the Shanghai team had both to practise and shoot the match in much less favourable weather than that which is experienced in the Southern Colonies at this time of year, and another disadvantage which Shanghai has laboured under was the strong breeze which had to put up with here, which, fanned in on both sides all along and having houses built at intervals right almost to the mound, is subject to variations of light which are particularly trying to marksmen, especially at the longer ranges. On the whole Shanghai has come out of the contest very creditably, and we may reasonably hope that in the next Interport Match we will stand as good a chance of success as our neighbours.—*China Gazette*.

INOCULATION AGAINST CHOLERA.

At a recent meeting of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation it was decided to continue the anti-cholera inoculation experiments for another year at a total cost of seven thousand five hundred rupees. There is a general impression that the Government should make a substantial contribution towards the cost of the experiments which should be carried out on a large scale. The Chairman informed the meeting that when cholera outbreaks occurred in Calcutta and neighbouring villages the Municipal Corporation was sent, and it was found that the death rate of those inoculated was very much lower than among those not subjected to inoculation. The question to be decided was whether the protection afforded was permanent or simply temporary. There was great opposition to the proposal to continue the experiments, and it was only carried by one vote.

ENGLAND, RUSSIA AND CHINA.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Standard* writes as follows on the 31st Oct.

The article in yesterday's *Russian Messenger* continues to be the theme of all the leaders in the Vienna Press, and was the secondary cause of a panic on the Vienna Bourse to-day, but at the Vienna Foreign Office it is judged with considerable calmness, and striking contrast to the alarm prevailing in non-official quarters. It is pointed out that the article imports in violent terms against a Power of the first magnitude with which Russia only yesterday was joined in common action. It is, moreover, unjust from beginning to end, because of its want of sincerity and double-facedness. Lord Salisbury is represented for his Russian policy, but the political and economic organs there was no trace of this, and recent events in Constantinople were watched closely enough by the Vienna Cabinet through the Austrian Ambassador in the Turkish capital. If any reproach could be made from the point of view of the Powers, which, though they did not participate in the action, gave to the British initiative every possible support, it is that the price paid for the practical result of the reforms was too high, namely, the sacrifice of the lives of hundreds of people, both Christians and Mohammedans, and the creation of a most dangerous situation for the Sultan. This price, however, was paid by Russia, as well as by England, and if Russia had found it too high, she could have withdrawn from action at the proper time.

Being rate in tone and unjust in its arguments, the article is further argued here, may be disregarded as not consistent with the views and intentions of the Russian Foreign Office and of the clear himself, were it not that deep-seated differences between Russia and England are known to exist elsewhere than in regard to Turkey; and the writer of the *Messenger* article, though he has certainly done in a clumsy way what he was ordered to do—that is, he has said something unpleasant to England—must, nevertheless, have received instructions to open a campaign against English policy, and thereby give the keynote to the rest of the Russian Press.

It is not likely, I heard it remarked to-day, that the *Messenger* article will remain the sole anonymous prepared by Russia for England. It will, in the first place, not be an encouragement to France, where the watershed is always expected from the news to raise the Egyptian Question as soon as the present Ministerial crisis is over. There may also be other surprises in store, each one disagreeable, perhaps, but none so dangerous. The conviction is firm in Vienna official circles that Russia does not think of war for the present, or for a considerable time to come; and with this conviction, which is so deeply based on direct information, the cause of alarm disappears.

Russia will try to influence British policy in favour of Russian plans in the Far East, and endeavour by all

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APRIL 13 - DECEMBER 9, 1896.			
Yrs.	Per. u	Per. du	Percentage Increase or Decrease.
0000	12%	all	181 % gross, sales
950	£	5 £ 5	dom.
970	£	9 £ 1.10	nom.
980	£	1 £ 1.25	buyers
990	£	11 £ 8.10	428
000	£	20 £ 8	50 1104
010	£	89 £ 33	25 474, sales and sellers
020	£	1 £ 0	26 478, sales and sellers
030	£	100 £	20 478, sales

1000 \$	250 \$	85 \$200, buyers and sellers
1000 \$	100 \$	80 \$119, buyers
1000 \$	100 \$	20 \$87
1000 \$	250 \$	50 \$280, sellers
1000 \$	125 \$	All 147 % profit, buyers

000 \$	00	all	\$70, sales and buyers
000 \$	20	all	\$54
000 \$	30	all	\$88
000 £	16	all	\$57, sales and buyers
000 £	10	2	1
	£	6	1
000 £	10	£	1
			25.10
000 \$	10	1	1

000 \$	100	\$	50	all buyers
000 \$	50			all sellers
000 \$	100	\$	37 1/2	all sellers
000 \$	100	\$	50	750, sales and sellers
000 \$	50	\$	30	310, sales
400 \$	10			all
500 \$	50	\$	40	210, buyers

250	\$	190	all	\$89
000	\$	5	all	\$3, sales and collecta
000	\$	4	all	\$64, buyers
000	Ecu.	500	Ecu. 500	\$85
000	\$	8	all	\$3, sales
000	\$	1	13/10	\$34, sales
000	\$	100	8	000
000	\$	59	all	\$7, collecta

000 \$	50	all	\$184 buyers
000 \$	10	all	\$19 sales and buyers
000 \$	5	all	\$1
000 \$	10	all	\$180, ex div. buyers
000 \$	10		\$54 sales
000 \$	55	all	\$17 sales and sellers
000 \$	15	\$12.60	\$54 buyers
000 \$	1		comm.

000.C	1	12	13	8101	
200.C	1	12	all	82 buyers	
000.C	35	all	35	820	
600.C	50	all	all	838	
000.C	10	all	all	840	
000.C	30	all	all	808, railway	
000.C	50	all	all	8150, railway	
100.Tls.	100	Tls.	80	Tls.	48
000.Tls.	100	Tls.	80	Tls.	471
000.Tls.	100	Tls.	80	Tls.	473

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1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 26